

## REMARKS

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement of May 12, 2006.

Applicants elected Group 2 with traverse. Applicants believe that the restriction requirement is not justified.

Applicant believes that the subject matter of the claims is not patentably distinct. This is because a search of the method would uncover the apparatus and vice versa. If, for example, the Examiner uncovers in his search of the apparatus claims of Group 2, which is in the form of means for performing the functions, then he would have also found the method steps in claims of Group 1, and vice versa.

Even though the method and apparatus claims are classified differently, as noted by the Examiner, the classifications are similar, being in the same class. The only difference is that the method claims are in one sub-class and the apparatus is in another sub-class of the same classification.

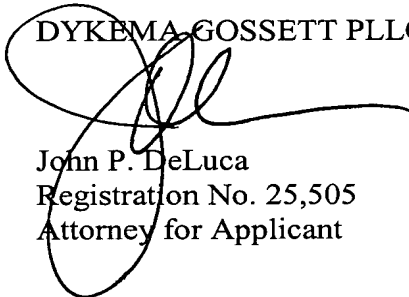
It is acknowledged that in some applications, the Examiner may be burdened with an extensive search. However, Applicant notes that because the subject matter of the claims in the present application is so closely related, it would be necessary to search both classifications in order to conduct an adequate search.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider his Restriction, and consider the non elected claims as well.

If additional fees are required, the examiner is authorized to charge deposit account 04-2223 or credit any overpayment thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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